

# Tree/Shrub Site Preparation

## Tree/Shrub Planting/Seeding

### WV Conservation Practice Job Sheet

**Code 490**



### Definition

Treatment of areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs.

### Purpose

- Permit artificial establishment of woody plants.

### Criteria

**A precondition for tree/shrub establishment is appropriately prepared sites. Site preparation is needed if competition from grass, weeds, and/or woody materials will interfere with plant establishment and growth.**

The method, intensity and timing of site preparation must match the limitations of the site, equipment, and the requirements for establishing the desired woody species.

**If pesticides are used, apply only when needed and handle and dispose of properly and within federal, state and local regulations. Follow label directions and heed all precautions listed on the container.**

**NOTE: West Virginia NRCS does not make pesticide recommendations. Landowners should be instructed to read product labels and follow product specifications. Landowners must contact the West Virginia Division of Forestry or the WVU Cooperative Extension Service for pesticide recommendations.**

**Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.**

**The area must be protected from fire and destructive grazing.**

**For riparian sites, leave a 3-foot untreated strip at the edge of the bank or shoreline.**

**Avoid sites that have had recent application of pesticides harmful to woody species to be planted.**

### Considerations

Impacts on wildlife species, habitat and aesthetics should be considered when selecting site preparation methods.

The site preparation method should be cost effective and protect cultural resources, wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, water resources, and identified unique areas.

Visual quality objectives should be considered when selecting site preparation methods.

Anticipate possible off-site effects and modify the site preparation design accordingly.

Consider personnel safety during site preparation activities.

Consider planting in prepared ridges in wet areas.

## Operation and Maintenance

Practice areas should be checked periodically, but especially in the first three to six months to see if additional control of competition is needed to ensure survival of desired vegetation.

Repair erosion control measures as necessary to ensure proper function. Access by vehicles during site preparation or after (i.e., before adequate tree and shrub establishment occurs) should be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts.

**This job sheet prepared by Barbara McWhorter  
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### Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following pages of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the WV NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See the WV conservation practice standard for Forest Site Preparation, code 490 for specific requirements. Information in this job sheet is considered part of the conservation plan.

## Forest Site Preparation – WV Job Sheet – Tree/Shrub Planting/Seeding

<b>Client:</b>	<b>Farm #:</b>
<b>Field(s):</b>	<b>Tract #:</b>
<b>Designed By:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Total Acres:</b>

Purpose	Description of Existing Vegetation
Permit artificial establishment of woody plants  <b>NOTE:</b> Refer to WV Conservation Practice Standard (612) Tree/Shrub Establishment and associated job sheet(s) for more information on planting/seeding of trees and/or shrubs.	

Site Preparation Method (Refer to WV Practice Standard Forest Site Preparation, 490 for specific requirements)				
Field	Acres	Method <sup>1</sup>	Planned Date	Remarks

Specify method <sup>1</sup>

<b><u>Chemical</u></b>	<b>NRCS does not make pesticide recommendations. Contact the local office of the West Virginia Division of Forestry or the WVU Cooperative Extension Service for assistance.</b> Clients should request the product name, strength and amount used. All chemicals must be applied in accordance with label guidelines.
<b><u>Hand</u></b>	<b>Cutting</b> - may be needed for sites with undesirable brush, see Brush Management, 340, if applicable.  <b>Scalping</b> - used in areas of heavy sod, especially fescue, or weed cover, an area 36 inches in diameter should be cleared with subsequent plant placement in the center of the scalped area
<b><u>Mechanical</u></b>	<b>Mowing</b> - used for abandoned pasture and cropland  <b>Harrowing, Disking, Tilling or Plowing</b> - used for cleared areas, sodded areas and on areas lightly covered with brush. These operations must expose at least 60% of the soil surface.  <b>Furrowing</b> - used in areas too rocky for planting machines, not to be used in areas with heavy clay soils and high water tables  <b>Bedding</b> - used in areas with high water tables, that are not wetlands  <b>Brushhogging or Blading</b> - removal of all vegetation using a brushhog or straight-blade dozer

**NOTE: More than one of the above options may be used in combination on some sites.**

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If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

**Operation and Maintenance:** Maintain erosion control measures as necessary. Control locally invasive and noxious plants as necessary. Access by vehicles or equipment during or after site preparation shall be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts. Practice areas should be checked periodically, but especially in the first three to six months after planting to see if additional control of competition is needed to insure the survival of desired vegetation. Repair erosion control measures as necessary to ensure proper function.

**Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements:**

**Protection required for desirable woody plants (if any):**

**Additional Specifications and Notes:**

Questions regarding the planting or maintenance of the tree/shrub establishment should be directed to:

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

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